

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A toner identification module, comprising:

a toner identification circuit, wherein the toner identification circuit produces a unique voltage identification signal for each of at least one toner holders;

an analog to digital converter coupled to the toner identification circuit and receiving the unique voltage identification signal, wherein the analog to digital converter converts the unique voltage identification signal into a corresponding digital identification signal;

an identification algorithm for creating at least one toner holder identity;

a memory device, wherein the identification algorithm is stored in the memory device; and

a processor coupled to the memory device and the analog to digital converter and receiving the corresponding digital identification signal, wherein the processor performs the identification algorithm using the corresponding digital identification signal to create the at least one toner holder identity.

2. An toner identification apparatus, comprising:

at least one toner identification circuit, wherein each of the at least one toner identification circuits produces a unique voltage identification signal for one of at least one toner holders;

an analog to digital converter coupled to the at least one toner identification circuits and receiving the unique voltage identification signals, wherein the analog to digital converter converts each of the unique voltage identification signals into a corresponding digital identification signal;

an identification algorithm for creating a toner holder identity for each of the at least one toner holders;

a memory device, wherein the identification algorithm is stored in the memory device; and

a processor coupled to the memory device and the analog to digital converter and receiving the corresponding digital identification signals, wherein the processor performs the identification algorithm using each of the corresponding digital identification signals to create a toner holder identity for each toner holder; and

a display device coupled to the processor and receiving the at least one toner holder identity, wherein the display device displays the at least one toner holder identity.

3. An toner identification apparatus as claimed in Claim 2, further comprising an input device coupled to the processor.

4. A toner identification circuit, comprising:

a power supply, wherein the power supply supplies a maximum voltage;

a voltage divider coupled to the power supply, wherein the voltage divider divides the maximum voltage supply into one of a plurality of initial identification voltages; and

an amplifier coupled to the voltage divider and receiving the one of a plurality of initial identification voltages, wherein the amplifier produces an identification voltage.

5. A toner identification circuit, as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the voltage divider comprises a DIP switch.

6. A computer readable storage medium storing computer readable program code for discovering a toner station identity, the computer readable program code comprising:

data encoding a table of at least one digital identification signal and a toner station identity associated with each at least one digital identification signal; and

a computer code implementing an identification algorithm in response to input of a digital identification signal.

7. A computer readable storage medium storing computer readable program code discovering whether an installed toner holder is a correct toner holder for a job type, the computer readable program code comprising:

data encoding a table of at least one job type and at least one correct toner holder associated with each at least one job type; and

a first computer code implementing a job selection algorithm.

8. A computer readable storage medium, as claimed in Claim 7, further comprising:

a second computer code implementing a security procedure algorithm; and
data encoding at least one mandated security procedure.

9. A multi-toner printer comprising:
 - a means for identifying a toner holder; and
 - a means for storing the means for identifying a toner holder.
10. A multi-toner printer, as claimed in Claim 9, further comprising a display means and an input means.
11. A multi-toner printer including a control unit, comprising:
 - at least one toner holder;
 - a control unit; and
 - a toner identification module, comprising:
 - at least one toner identification circuit, wherein one of the at least one toner identification circuits is located on each of the at least one toner holders, wherein each of the at least one toner identification circuits produces a unique voltage identification signal for the at least one toner holder on which it is located;
 - an analog to digital converter coupled to the at least one toner identification circuit and receiving the unique voltage identification signal from each of the at least one voltage identification circuits, wherein the analog to digital converter converts the unique voltage identification signals into at least one corresponding digital identification signal;
 - an identification algorithm for creating at least one toner holder identity for each of at least one toner holders;
 - a memory device, wherein the identification algorithm is stored in the memory device; and
 - a processor coupled to the memory device and the analog to digital converter and receiving the at least one corresponding digital identification signals, wherein the processor performs the identification algorithm using the at least one corresponding digital identification signals to create a toner holder identity for each of the at least one toner holders.

12. A multi-toner printer, as claimed in Claim 11, further comprising:

a user interface coupled to the processor, wherein the user interface enables input at least one job selection; and

wherein the processor determines whether the toner holder is a correct toner holder for the at least one job selection, wherein if the toner holder is not the correct toner holder for the at least one job selection, disallows the at least one job selection by producing a control signal that directs the control unit not to print the at least one job selection and communicating the control signal to the control unit, and wherein if the toner holder is the correct toner holder for the at least one job selection, allows the at least one job selection to print by producing a control signal that directs the control unit to print the at least one job selection.

13. A job selection algorithm for a multi-toner printer, comprising:

enabling input of at least one job selection;

identifying a toner holder installed in the multi-toner printer; and

determining whether the toner holder is a correct toner holder for the at least one job selection, wherein if the toner holder is not the correct toner holder for the at least one job selection, disallowing the at least one job selection, and wherein if the toner holder is the correct toner holder for the at least one job selection, allowing the at least one job selection to print.

14. A job selection algorithm for a multi-toner printer, as claimed in Claim 11, wherein after the step of enabling input of at least one job selection, further comprising, determining whether the at least one job selection is an MICR job, wherein if the job is an MICR job, requiring performance of a security measure and determining if the security measure is performed, and wherein if the security measure is not performed, disallowing the selected job.